

9/11/69

Mr. Ronald Hobbs
Room 303
211 E 43rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Ron,

Your silence, after about four months, is a disappointment.

I write to give you a progress report on the addition to
COUR D'ETAT. As I told you, it deals entirely with the King/Ray case.

It is written. That is, I have finished the writing, have read
and corrected it in haste, and my wife is retyping it. My estimate of its
length is probably conservative. I now think this addition will run about
200,000 words. A little less than a third if retyped. From now on it will
go slower because beginning next week two days each will be taken
up by other things my wife will have to do for much of the rest of the year.

In writing it I have had in mind most of all making the historical
record I regret so much no black has seen fit to undertake. It is more
inclusive than a commercial book need be. I believe it will be no difficult
chore, in the event commercial interest can be sponsored, to cut large hunks
out. I have had this in mind in its organization. However, I have also had
in mind replacing cross-examination in a legal proceeding, the destruction
of the prosecution case. Here I think I have succeeded overwhelmingly. My
intent was not to defend Ray, which was inevitable, but to prove the crime is
unsolved and is unsolved only because this was the predetermination of public
authority -all of it from the attorney general down. That Ray was framed is,
I believe, beyond question. That public authority also framed him is obvious.
The same is true of his lawyers -all of them. It is simply incredible but it
is true beyond question. I think that, given the non-existing disposition to
do something about it, there is enough in this work to get all the lawyers
involved disbarred or disciplined and a new trial for Ray. Meaning a chance to
solve the crime, force the government to go after the assassin and those who
had to have conspired with him.

A lecture bureau is going to offer me. This comes after their
list for the year is completed and published, so, aside from any reduced
interest in the subject (and the New Orleans fiasco has caused some), my
chances will be reduced also. But if I am booked at any colleges, I intend to
go into this. I would welcome opportunities to speak on this alone. If I get
them, I think I'll stir the kids up a bit.

The last words in the work are an incomplete sentence: "The
awful crime of silence". Germany 1932. Orwell. Only not Jews alone give
us the Judenrat this time. Nor is it only the leaders of government
whose tongues are clamped.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg